

## **Developing Science-Based Information for Coastal Ecosystems**

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**Key Words:** estuaries, coastal waters, monitoring, ecological assessments, 305(b) reporting

The purpose of the session will be the demonstration of the development of environmental information from probability survey data to address specific national, regional, state, and local coastal concerns. While the initial focus will be on ORD's National Coastal Assessment (NCA) program, subsequent presenters will expand upon this theme to demonstrate how NCA has created products and protocols that can be applied to provide critical environmental information at the levels of other National Programs (National Estuary Program), regional assessments, criteria development, state level assessments, and specific locales (individual estuaries or water management districts). The session will include six 30-minute presentations for a total of three hours. Presentations will include ORD, Regional, Program Office, and State Resource Agency personnel. Topics will include the development of coastal ecosystem monitoring surveys and their implementation, as well as the development of indices for reporting the information. All presentations will focus on the development of information from these surveys that can be used by decision makers in developing policy (e.g., criteria development), programs (e.g., restoration projects), and addressing legislative requirements (e.g., Clean Water Act requirements).

### **Speakers:**

Kevin Summers (ORD - National Coastal Assessment and the National Coastal Condition Report)  
Barry Burgan (OW - Use of Survey Data to Address Legislative Requirements)  
Walt Nelson (ORD - Regional Assessments of US West Coast, Alaska and Hawaii)  
Diane Gould (EPA Region 1 - The Use of Probabilistic Survey Data to Develop Regional Projects/Programs)  
Philip Trowbridge (New Hampshire Department of Environmental Conservation - Use of Probabilistic Surveys to Address Coastal Issues in New Hampshire)  
Gil McRae (Florida Marine Research Institute - Using Probability Surveys to Address Environmental Concerns at the State and Local Level)

### **Speakers' Expertise:**

Kevin Summers: Systems Ecologist, Associate Director of Science for NHEERL/GED and Technical Director of ORD's National Coastal Assessment  
Barry Burgan: Office of Water, OWOW, Director of National Estuary Program and previous Director of 305(b) Reporting Group  
Walt Nelson: Branch Chief, Coastal Branch, NHEERL/WED, Regional Coordinator NCA West Coast, Alaska, Hawaii and Pacific Territories  
Diane Gould: EPA, Region 1  
Philip Trowbridge: New Hampshire Department of Environmental Conservation, State Technical

Lead for NCA and State Lead for 305(b) reporting  
Gil McRae: Director, Florida Marine Research Institute, Responsible for all coastal programs for  
State of Florida